

Message Text

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12

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00

OES-05 EPA-04 EB-07 OIC-02 AID-05 /139 W

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R 102217Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2811

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION VIENNA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS USUN 4932

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, AFIN, ABUD, UN, UNEP

SUBJECT: UN BUDGET: FIFTH COMMITTEE CONTINUES GENERAL BUDGET
DEBATE AND DISCUSSION OF SECTION 13 (UNEP)

REF: USUN 4897

1. SUMMARY: GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY
ETHIOPIA, AFGHANISTAN, US, BELGIUM AND BULGARIA.
COMMITTEE HEARD UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (UNEP)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STRONG AND COMMENTS OF SEVERAL DELEGATIONS,
BUT DID NOT COMPLETE ACTION ON SECTION 13. END SUMMARY:

2. EHTIOPIAN DEL SAID IT WOULD SUPPORT SYG BUDGET AS
REVISED BY ACABQ DESPITE DIFFICULTY IN PAYING CONTRIBUTIONS DUE TO
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CAUSED BY DROUGHT AND ENERGY CRISES.
AFGHANISTAN DEL SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ON UNEF/UNDOF FINANCING, AND
CONCLUDED BY SUPPORTING SYG BUDGET AS AMENDED BY ACABQ.

3. USDEL (STOTTLEMYER) DELIVERED STATEMENT AS CLEARED
BY DEPARTMENT (COPY POUCHED IO/SEC).

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4 BELGIUM REP SAID THERE IS TOO MUCH OVERLAPPING AND DUPLICATION IN AREA OF COMMON SERVICES; COMMITTEE FIVE SHOULD INSTRUCT ACABQ TO ASSESS DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPLICATIONS OF USING EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS TO MAINTAIN PERMANENT PROGRAMS, AND REPORT TO 31ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD TAKE UP PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN MEDIUM-TERM PLAN BEFORE SYG PREPARES PROGRAM BUDGET. DEPLORED THE TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN BUDGET, SAID SYG SHOULD PRACTICE STRICT AUSTERITY, AND FIND MOST ECONOMICAL WAYS OF ACHIEVING GOALS; MOREOVER, OUTMODED PROGRAMS AND THEIR STAFF MUST BE TERMINATED TO PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR NEW ONES WITH PRIORITY.

5. BULGARIAN DEL REITERATED SOVIET DEMAND FOR CEILING ON ANNUAL GROWTH OF UN EXPENDITURES, WHICH MUST NOT EXCEED THE AVERAGE RATES OF ANNYAL GROWTH OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT AND NATIONAL INCOME OF MEMBER STATES. ON SPECIFIC ITEMS, DOCUMENTATION IS TOO VOLUMINOUS; BUT THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT DATA FOR EXPENDITURES (INCLUDING EXTRABUDGETARY SOURCES) AND INCOME, AND ALSO FOR PROGRAMS BY OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE; UN PERSONNEL ARE INEFFICIENT; AND PRACTICE OF APPOINTING NATIONAL FROM OVER-REPRESENTED COUNTRIES IN SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED; DEVELOPED COUNTRIS HOUSING UN UNITS SHOULD DEFRAY COST OF INFLATION. HE ASKED HOW MUCH OF COST OF MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT IS ATTIBUTED TO DIRECT AND INDIRECT TAXES AND DUTIES, AND WHETHER THE UN ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN EXEMPTION FROM THESE TAXES.

6. SECTION 13 (UNEP): FRANCE, FRG, UK, IRAN AND ALGERIA ALL CRITICIZED INCREASING NUMBER OF POSTS BEING FINANCED BY UN ENVIRONMENT FUND, AS WELL AS HIGH PROPORTION OF HIGH-LEVEL POSTS UNDER REGULAR BUDGET. ARGENTINE DEL MADE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF UNEP ADMINISTRATION.

7. UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STRONG MADE LENGTHY, BUT UNCONVINCING REPLIES TO QUESTIONS, INSISTING THAT UNEP OPERATION REQUIRED HIGH-LEVEL PERSONNEL AND COSTLY COMMUNICATIONS, BUT GIVING NO SERIOUS REASONS.
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8. UK DEL PROPOSED THAT FIFTH COMMITTEE REPORT ON SECTION 13 SHOULD RECOMMEND THAT UNEP BUDGET REMAIN AT SAME LEVEL IN REAL TERMS FOR FOUR YEARS I.E., 1976 THROUGH 1979 AND THAT ACABQ BE ASKED TO STUDY PROBLEMS OF EXTRABUDGETARY COSTS IN UNEP AND OTHER SIMILAR BODIES AND REPORT TO 31ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY. COMMITTEE DECIDED TO CONSIDER UK PROPOSALS NEXT WEEK

AND, IN MEANWHILE, NOT TO VOTE ON SECTION 13...

9. COMMITTEE WILL TAKE UP BUDGET MACHINERY ON OCT 13
AND SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS OCT 14.
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